

(d) The use of all or any part of a lease area for subsurface storage of gas shall not affect the continuance or expiration of such lease.

(e) Gas may not be stored on unleased lands unless a right of use and easement for that purpose has been approved by the Regional Supervisor in accordance with § 250.107.

(f) Reinjection or storage of gas will not be approved when the gas is to be injected into the cap rock of a salt dome known to contain a sulphur deposit, unless the injection of gas is necessary to the recovery of oil and gas contained in the cap rock, and the applicant can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Regional Supervisor that the injection of gas will not significantly increase potential hazards to present or future sulphur mining operations.

[53 FR 10690, Apr. 1, 1988 as amended at 56 FR 32099, July 15, 1991. Redesignated and amended at 63 FR 29479, 29484, May 29, 1998]

§ 250.115 Identification.

(a) Platforms, structures, artificial islands, and mobile drilling units which have helicopter landing facilities shall be identified with at least one sign using letters and figures not less than 12 inches in height. Signs for units without helicopter landing facilities shall use letters and figures not less than 3 inches in height. Signs shall be affixed at a location that is visible to approaching traffic and shall contain the following information which may be abbreviated:

- (1) Name of the lease operator,
- (2) The area designation based on OCS Official Protraction Diagrams (except in the Pacific OCS Region),
- (3) The block number (lease number in the Pacific OCS Region) in which the facility is located, and
- (4) Platform, structure, or rig name.

(b) For each singly completed well, the lease number and well number shall be painted on the wellhead or on a sign affixed to the wellhead. In wells with multiple completions, each completion shall be individually identified at the wellhead. For subsea wellheads, the required sign shall be affixed to the flowline at a convenient surface location on the platform to which it is con-

nected. All identifying signs shall be maintained in a legible condition.

§ 250.116 Reimbursement.

(a) When geological data, geophysical data, analyzed geological information, processed geological and geophysical information, reprocessed geological and geophysical information, and interpreted geological and geophysical information are submitted to MMS pursuant to the requirements of this part (whether or not retained by MMS) and upon receipt of a request for reimbursement no later than 90 days from the date of delivery and a determination by the Regional Supervisor that the requested reimbursement is proper, the lessee or third party shall be reimbursed for the reasonable costs of reproducing such data and information at the lessee's or third party's lowest rate or at the lowest commercial rate established in the area, whichever is less.

(b) When processed or reprocessed geological or geophysical information is submitted to MMS pursuant to the requirements of this part (whether retained by the Regional Supervisor or not) and upon receipt of a request for reimbursement no later than 90 days from the date of delivery and a determination by the Regional Supervisor that the requested reimbursement is proper, the lessee or third party shall be reimbursed for the reasonable costs attributable to processing and reprocessing such information (as distinguished from the cost of data acquisition) but only if the processing or reprocessing was in the form and manner of processing other than that used in the normal conduct of the lessee's business and was done at the specific request of the Regional Supervisor.

(c) Requests for reimbursement shall identify processing and reprocessing costs separate from acquisition costs.

(d) The lessee shall not be reimbursed for the costs of analyzing geological information or for interpreting geological or geophysical information.

§ 250.117 Information and forms.

(a) Information required to be submitted pursuant to the regulations in

this part shall be furnished in the manner and form prescribed in the regulations in this part or as ordered by the Director. Copies of forms may be obtained from the Regional or District Supervisor and shall be filled out completely and filed punctually with the Regional or District Supervisor. Computer generated forms which are equal in size, readability, and paper quality, and which arrange the data in identical format, may be submitted in lieu of the forms available from the Regional or District Supervisor.

(b) Reports submitted on forms prescribed under this part or otherwise required by the Director shall include a copy marked "Public Information" which shall include all required information except that exempt from public disclosure in § 250.118 or otherwise exempt from public disclosure under law or regulation.

[53 FR 10690, Apr. 1, 1988. Redesignated and amended at 63 FR 29479, 29484, May 29, 1998]

§ 250.118 Data and information to be made available to the public.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section or in § 252.7 of this chapter, geophysical data, processed geophysical information, reprocessed geophysical information, and interpreted geological and geophysical information, submitted at any time pursuant to the requirements of this part, shall not be available for public inspection without the consent of the lessee as long as the lease remains in effect, or for a period of 10 years after the date of submission, whichever is less, unless the Director determines that:

(1) The data and information are needed to unitize operations on 2 or more leases, to ensure proper plans of development for competitive reservoirs, or to promote operational safety or protection of the environment, and the data and information are shown only to persons with an interest in the issue,

(2) The geological and geophysical data and information are necessary for specific scientific or research purposes for the Government and the release of such data and information would further the nation interest without unduly damaging the competitive position of the lessee.

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section or in § 252.7 of this chapter, geological data and analyzed geological information submitted pursuant to the requirements of this part, shall not be available for public inspection without the consent of the lessee except under one of the following conditions based on the status of the lease at the time of release of the data and information:

(1) For leases no longer in effect, the data and information will be released.

(2) For a lease in effect, and within the primary term specified in the lease, the data and information may be released 2 years after submission of the data or information or 60 days after a lease sale such that any portion of an offered block is within 50 miles of a well, whichever is later. For the purpose of this paragraph 2, the primary term specified in a lease shall be deemed to be extended for a period of time equal to the period of time for which a suspension of operations is granted pursuant to § 250.110 of this part; provided that the primary term specified in a lease shall not be deemed to be extended for a suspension of operations directed in accordance with § 250.110 (b)(1) of this part.

(3) For leases in effect and beyond the primary term specified in the lease, except as provided in paragraph (b)(2) of this section, data and information will be released 2 years after submission.

(4) For all leases, the data and information may be released if the Director determines that:

(i) The data and information are needed to unitize operations on 2 or more leases, to ensure proper plans of development for competitive reservoirs, or to promote operational safety or protection of the environment, and the data and information are shown only to persons with an interest in the issue;

(ii) The geological data and information are necessary for specific scientific or research purposes for the Government and the release of such data and information would further the national interest without unduly damaging the competitive position of the lessee.